

List of Current Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 13 (Cancelled).

14. (Previously presented) A method for monitoring a field device connected via a data bus with a control unit, comprising the steps of:

using the control unit to request at intervals in time, an individual identifier of the field device;

comparing the requested individual identifier of the field device with an identifier stored in the control unit, for preventing unauthorized tampering with the field device based on the unauthorized replacement or change of hardware, or software, or even just parts thereof in the field device; and

producing an alarm or a warning, in the case of a change in the requested individual identifier.

15. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein: the individual identifier is the serial number of the field device.

16. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein: the individual identifier is a key in the device firmware of the field device.

17. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein: the individual identifier is a test sum of a memory unit in the field device.

18. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 14, further comprising the step of:
storing the requested individual identifier in a database, along with a time stamp.

19. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein:
a storing in the database only occurs, when a change is detected in the
requested individual identifier.

Claim 20 (Cancelled).

21. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
the alarm or warning is only produced, when the change occurs outside of
a specified time period for maintenance.

22. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
the alarm or warning is presented at the control unit.

23. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
the alarm or warning is sent in electronic form.

24. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
the alarms or warnings are retrievable at the control unit.

25. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
the alarms or warnings can be retrieved via a client.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring a field device
connected via a data bus with a control unit, comprising the steps of:
directing a query by the control unit to the field device in intervals of time,
the query requires an answer from the field device; and
in case no answer comes from the field device, such fact is stored in a data
base along with a corresponding time stamp.

27. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein:
the electronic form is one of: email; SMS; and fax.

28. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein:
the alarms or warnings can be retrieved via Internet Explorer.